

Critical Thinking Grid

	4 - Exemplary If applicable, consistently does all or almost all of the following	3 - Satisfactory If applicable, consistently does most or many of the following	2- Below Satisfactory If applicable, consistently does most or many of the following	1 - Unsatisfactory If applicable, consistently does all or almost all of the following
Purpose	--Demonstrates a clear understanding of the assignment's purpose	--Demonstrates an understanding of the assignment's purpose	--Is not completely clear about the purpose of the assignment	--Does not clearly understand the purpose of the assignment
Key Question, Problem, or Issue	--Clearly defines the issue or problem; accurately identifies the core issues --Appreciates depth and breadth of problem --Demonstrates fair-mindedness toward problem	--Defines the issue; identifies the core issues, but may not fully explore their depth and breadth --Demonstrates fair-mindedness	--Defines the issue, but poorly (superficially, narrowly); may overlook some core issues --Has trouble maintaining a fair-minded approach toward the problem	--Fails to clearly define the issue or problem; does not recognize the core issues --Fails to maintain a fair-minded approach toward the problem
Point of View	--Identifies and evaluates relevant significant points of view --Is empathetic, fair in examining all relevant points of view	--Identifies and evaluates relevant points of view --Is fair in examining those views	--May identify other points of view but struggles with maintaining fairmindedness; may focus on irrelevant or insignificant points of view	--Ignores or superficially evaluates alternate points of view --Cannot separate own vested interests and feelings when evaluating other points of view
Information	--Gathers sufficient, credible, relevant information: observations, statements, logic, data, facts, questions, graphs, themes, assertions, descriptions, etc. --Includes information that opposes as well as supports the argued position --Distinguishes between information and inferences drawn from that information	--Gathers sufficient, credible, and relevant information --Includes some information from opposing views --Distinguishes between information and inferences drawn from it	--Gathers some credible information, but not enough; some information may be irrelevant --Omits significant information, including some strong counter-arguments --Sometimes confuses information and the inferences drawn from it	--Relies on insufficient, irrelevant, or unreliable information --Fails to identify or hastily dismisses strong, relevant counter-arguments --Confuses information and inferences drawn from that information
Concepts	--Identifies and accurately explains/uses the relevant key concepts	--Identifies and accurately explains and uses the key concepts, but not with the depth and precision of a "4"	--Identifies some (not all) key concepts, but use of concepts is superficial and inaccurate at times	--Misunderstands key concepts or ignores relevant key concepts altogether
Assumptions	--Accurately identifies assumptions (things taken for granted) --Makes assumptions that are consistent, reasonable, valid	--Identifies assumptions --Makes valid assumptions	--Fails to identify assumptions, or fails to explain them, or the assumptions identified are irrelevant, not clearly stated, and/or invalid	--Fails to identify assumptions --Makes invalid assumptions
Interpretations, Inferences	--Follows where evidence and reason lead in order to obtain defensible, thoughtful, logical conclusions or solutions --Makes deep rather than superficial inferences --Makes inferences that are consistent with one another	--Follows where evidence and reason lead to obtain justifiable, logical conclusions --Makes valid inferences, but not with the same depth and as a "4"	--Does follow some evidence to conclusions, but inferences are more often than not unclear, illogical, inconsistent, and/or superficial	--Uses superficial, simplistic, or irrelevant reasons and unjustifiable claims --Makes illogical, inconsistent inferences --Exhibits closed-mindedness or hostility to reason; regardless of the evidence, maintains or defends views based on self-interest
Implications, Consequences	--Identifies the most significant implications and consequences of the reasoning (whether positive and/or negative) --Distinguishes probable from improbable implications	--Identifies significant implications and consequences and distinguishes probable from improbable implications, but not with the same insight and precision as a "4"	--Has trouble identifying significant implications and consequences; identifies improbable implications	--Ignores significant implications and consequences of reasoning

4 = Thinking is exemplary, skilled, marked by excellence in clarity, accuracy, precision, relevance, depth, breadth, logicity, and fairness

3 = Thinking is competent, effective, accurate and clear, but lacks the exemplary depth, precision, and insight of a 4

2 = Thinking is inconsistent, ineffective; shows a lack of consistent competence: is often unclear, imprecise, inaccurate, and superficial

1 = Thinking is unskilled and insufficient, marked by imprecision, lack of clarity, superficiality, illogicality, and inaccuracy, and unfairness

Critical Thinking Worksheet

Overall Score _____

If applicable, score the element (1-4)	Element of Reasoning	Comments
	Purpose: Does the student demonstrate a clear understanding of the assignment's purpose?	
	Key Question, Problem, or Issue: Does the student clearly define the issue or problem, accurately identify the core issues, appreciate their depth and breadth?	
	Point of View: Does the student identify and evaluate relevant significant points of view? Does the student demonstrate fairmindedness toward the problem?	
	Information: Does the student gather sufficient, credible, relevant information (statements, logic, data, facts, questions, graphs, assertions, observations, etc.)? Does the student include information that opposes as well as supports the argued position? Does the student distinguish between information and inferences drawn from that information?	
	Concepts: Does the student identify and accurately explain/use the relevant key concepts?	
	Assumptions: Does the student accurately identify assumptions (things taken for granted)? Does the student make assumptions that are consistent, reasonable, valid?	
	Interpretations, Inferences: Does the student follow where evidence and reason lead in order to obtain defensible, thoughtful, logical conclusions or solutions? Does the student make deep (rather than superficial) inferences? Are the inferences consistent?	
	Implications, Consequences: Does the student identify the most significant implications and consequences? Does the student distinguish probable from improbable implications?	

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